Smuggling of illegal goods and weapons by trains

†1683. MISS ANUSUIYA UIKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of smuggling of illegal goods and weapons by trains have come to notice in Bihar, Assam and West Bengal during the last three years;

(b) the illegal goods, weapons seized in these cases alongwith their cost;

(c) the specific action being taken by his Ministry in order to curb the smuggling of illegal goods and weapons; and

(d) the number of guilty persons involved in smuggling arrested?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) The number of cases of smuggling of illegal goods and weapons by trains reported in Railways in the jurisdiction of Bihar, Assam and West Bengal during the last three years *i.e. 2005, 2006 and 2007 alongwith value of property seized are as under:*—

Years	Number of cases of illegal goods/weapons reported	Value of Property of seized goods/weapons (In Rupees)
2005	217	3,85,62,878
2006	260	2,44,13,176
2007	195	3,18,41,973

(c) "Policing" being a State subject, prevention and detection of crime on Railways and smuggling of illegal goods/weapons in running trains are the constitutional responsibility of the State Governments concerned. Moreover, a separate wing called 'Custom Department' under the Ministry of Finance exist to prevent and check smuggling activities in the country. However, following specific actions are being taken by Railways to curb this menace:—

(1) Regular drives are conducted in trains jointly with GRP and Customs Department to detect transportation of illegal goods and weapons.

(2) Close co-ordination is being maintained with GRP, Civil Police and Customs Department.

(3) The train escorting parties of vulnerable trains run in the affected areas are briefed to keep surveillance over the movement of suspicious persons in the trains.

(4) Unclaimed luggages are being checked at enroute stations of affected trains.

(5) As and when, any case of transportation of illegal goods/arms is detected by RPF, the case is immediately forwarded to GRP or Custom Department for further legal action.

(d) Number of persons arrested for their involvement in smuggling of illegal goods/ weapons in trains in the States of Bihar, Assam and West Bengal during the last three years i.e. 2005, 2006 and 2007 are as under:—

Year	Number of persons arrested
2005	34
2006	45
2007	51

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.